and predefined interval may be dynamically changed based on historical data processing and/or user input and may vary as appropriate.

[0059] At step **620**, the first radio unit **260** may be reconfigured to provide service for at least one other radio unit **260**. In certain embodiments, reconfiguring first radio unit **260** may include disabling the MIMO or CDD configuration in the first radio unit **260**. As described above, disabling the MIMO or CDD configuration will free up antenna ports that are not used when first radio unit **260** operates with a single transmitter and receiver. The CDD or MIMO radio ports that were previously used for transmitting in the first radio sector may then be reconfigured to provide service to an antenna units associated with the at least one other radio unit **260**.

[0060] At step **625**, one or more radio units **210** are disabled and first radio unit **260** is lent to the associated sectors. Because one radio unit **260** may be used to support transmissions in two or more sectors and at least one radio unit **260** can be disabled, substantially energy savings may be realized. In the scenario described above where the radio unit array **210** includes three radio units **260** and first radio unit **260** is reconfigured to support one other cell sector of network node **115**, the switch configuration of FIG. **4** may be applicable. Thus, alpha radio unit **405** is reconfigured to support beta antenna unit **445**.

[0061] In certain embodiments, the method may continue to step **630**. At step **630**, it may be determined, at some point after the reconfiguration of first radio unit **260** and disabling of at least one other radio unit, that PRB utilization by the first radio unit is more than a predefined threshold. Radio units **260** that were previously disabled may be enabled again to reduce the load on first radio unit **260**. First radio unit **260** may be reconfigured to cease providing service for now enabled radio units **260**.

[0062] Though alpha radio unit **405** is described as being reconfigured to support beta sector **420** with regard to FIG. **6**, certain embodiments may result in alpha radio unit **405** being reconfigured to support gamma sector **430** instead. FIG. **7** is a switch diagram illustrating an alternative example radio unit array **700** configured for operation in a resource sharing mode. Similar to radio unit array **300** and radio unit array **400** depicted in FIGS. **3** and **4**, respectively, radio unit array **700** includes three radio units associated with three distinct cell sectors. Specifically, alpha radio unit **705** is associated with alpha sector **710**, beta radio unit **715** is associated with beta sector **720**, and gamma radio unit **725** is associated with gamma sector **730**. In the depicted embodiment, gamma radio unit **725** is not active, and each radio unit **705**, **715**, and **725** has the switch position set to the fourth position **735**.

[0063] Transition of the switch from the first position associated with the normal mode of operation to the fourth position **735** associated with a resource sharing mode may be achieved either mechanically, electro mechanically, and/or electronically and may result in switching of link points between the radio units and the antennas. For example, in the depicted embodiment, alpha radio unit **705** remains linked to antenna alpha unit **740** to support the transmission of signals via alpha antenna unit **705** and beta radio unit **715** remains linked to beta antenna unit **745** to support the transmission of signals via beta antenna unit **745**. However, gamma radio unit **725** is disabled, and link points between alpha radio unit **705** and gamma antenna unit **750** are enabled. As a result, alpha radio unit **705** is capable of supporting transmissions to wireless devices **110** in both alpha sector **710** via antenna unit **740** and gamma sector **730** via gamma antenna unit **750**. Because a radio unit is disabled, radio unit array **700** may result in substantial energy savings over a radio unit array operating in the normal mode of operation described above.

[0064] In still other embodiments, even further energy savings may be realized where a radio unit is reconfigured to support every cell sector of network node **115** and every other radio unit may be disabled. To operate in this manner, the switch configuration is adapted. FIG. **8** illustrates another alternative example radio unit array **800** configured for operation in a resource sharing mode that results in maximized energy savings. Similar to radio unit arrays **300**, **400**, and **700** illustrated in FIGS. **3**, **4**, and **7**, respectively, radio unit array **800** includes three radio units associated with three distinct cell sectors. Specifically, alpha radio unit **805** is associated with alpha sector **810**, beta radio unit **815** is associated with beta sector **820**, and gamma radio unit **825** is associated with gamma sector **830**. In the depicted embodiment, beta and gamma radio units **815** and **825** are not active, and each radio unit **805**, **815**, and **825** has the switch position set to the second position **835**.

[0065] Transition of the switch from the first position associated with the normal mode of operation to the second position **835** associated with a resource sharing mode may be achieved either mechanically, electro mechanically, and/or electronically and may result in switching of link points between the radio units and the antennas. For example, in the depicted embodiment, alpha radio unit **805** remains linked to alpha antenna unit **840** to support the transmission of signals via alpha antenna unit **840**. However, beta radio unit **815** and gamma radio unit **825** are disabled. Link points between alpha radio unit **805** and gamma antenna unit **850** are enabled. Likewise, link points between alpha radio unit **805** and beta antenna unit **845** are enabled. As a result, alpha radio unit **805** is able to support transmissions to wireless devices **110** in both in all three sectors. Because the beta and gamma radio units **815** and **825** are disabled, radio unit array **800** may result in the greatest energy savings.

[0066] Though the switch configuration of FIG. **8** is appropriate where it is determined cell sector loading in all cell sectors can be accommodated by a single radio unit **260**, it is equally appropriate where all but one radio unit **260** in a network node **115** have failed. Where the radio unit load satisfies certain user defined threshold conditions and desired Quality of Service levels may be maintained.

[0067] FIG. **9** is a flow chart illustrating another example embodiment of an alternative method for reducing power consumption by sharing resources in a network node. The method begins at step **905** when it is determined whether all radio units are active. If not at all radio units are active, it may then be determined at step **910** whether any of the radio units **260** have failed and cell coverage has been lost. If a radio unit has failed, it may be determined whether any non-failing radio units **260** are operating with a MIMO or CDD configuration at step **915**.

[0068] If at least one radio unit **260** is operating with a MIMO or CDD configuration, it may be determined at step **920** whether specific user-defined QCI sessions in the radio unit that is operating in the MIMO or CDD configuration is less than a predefined threshold. Additionally, it may be determined whether or not the radio unit **260** operating with a MIMO or CDD configuration is handling any emergency calls. If step **920** is answered negatively, the determination of step **920** may be repeated until it is affirmatively answered.